

NPL Site Narrative for Salford Quarry

SALFORD QUARRY

Lower Salford Township, Pennsylvania

Federal Register Notice: [April 1, 1997](#)

The Salford Quarry site is located on approximately 3 acres in Lower Salford Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The site was used as a shale quarry in the early 1900s. In the 1950s, the Ludwig and Son waste disposal business used the quarry as a dumping point for industrial, commercial, and residential waste. Fly ash cinders from a coal-fired power plant were also disposed at the site. In April 1963, American Encaustic Tiling Company, Incorporated [later known as American Olean Tile Company, Incorporated (AOT)] acquired the site from Mattero Brothers.

AOT used the unlined quarry for the disposal of glaze wash-up sludge, settling pond sediment, and fired and unfired scrap tiles from its Lansdale, Pennsylvania plant. The sludge, settling pond dredgings, and tile glazing material coating the scrap tiles contained boron oxide. The sludge was disposed at the site as early as 1963. Beginning in 1973, the quarry was used for the disposal of the majority of AOT's lead-containing slurries. The quarry was also used for the disposal of clarifier sludge which may have been contaminated with tetrachloroethene and trichloroethene from equipment-washing operations. AOT stopped disposing of material in the quarry in about 1980.

In May 1982, AOT began closure of Salford Quarry by grading

the site and installing a two- to four-foot-thick clay cap. The landfill was closed to the satisfaction of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (PADER) in July 1982. As part of the closure agreement with PADER, quarterly sampling of two monitoring wells began in 1982 and continued through at least 1987.

Salford Quarry was proposed for listing on the National Priorities List (NPL) in January 1987. In March 1987, AOT challenged the listing in court. AOT entered into a Consent Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in March 1988, consenting to undertake all actions required for implementation of a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. In May 1988, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) issued a Health Assessment, concluding that the site posed a potential risk to human health. The site was finalized on the NPL in August 1990. A June 1992 decision by the United States Court of Appeals removed the Salford Quarry site from the NPL.

Sampling conducted in July and September 1991 had revealed elevated concentrations of boron in several area home wells, at levels up to 24,700 micrograms per liter. As a result, 42 area residences were eligible to receive bottled water as of October 1991. In December 1991, ATSDR submitted an addendum to its earlier Health Assessment, based on the new analytical data. ATSDR concluded that the site posed a threat to human health and recommended that alternate potable water be supplied to affected homes. After the site was removed from the NPL in June 1992, EPA's Emergency Response Program directed the installation of new municipal water lines to residences in the area of the boron-contaminated groundwater. During the Phase I installation from July to October 1993, 73 residences were connected. During the Phase II installation from December 1994 to January 1995, an additional 40 residences were connected.

Public water supply wells located within a four-mile radius of the site include up to 22 North Penn Water Authority wells and up to nine wells at the Graterford State Correctional Institute. In addition, there are numerous private residential wells and wells

serving restaurants and other commercial establishments.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See [56 FR 5600](#), February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html> or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.